



# SPS Capacity Building Manuals for EAC Partner States



# Introduction

The East Africa Trade and Investment Hub (the Hub) is the U.S. government's flagship project under the presidential Trade Africa initiative, launched in 2013 to boost trade and investment with and within Africa. The goal of the Hub is to deepen regional integration, increase the competitiveness of select regional agricultural value chains, promote two-way trade with the U.S. under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and facilitate investment and technology to drive trade growth intra-regionally and to global markets.

Recognizing the importance of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures in regional and international trade, EAC partner states developed and signed the EAC SPS Protocol which provides a legal basis for resolving the SPS related constraints to intra-regional trade. The U.S. Government and the EAC signed a cooperation agreement (February 26, 2015) on trade facilitation, sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS), and technical barriers to trade. One of the specific areas of focus under the SPS was build the capacity of EAC Partners States in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures through technical assistance. To identify the SPS capacity needs, priority activities were formulated through stakeholder engagements at both national and regional levels. Among the identified priority activities, the Hub has and continues to support the following:

- (i) Coordination of SPS measures in EAC Partner States including process of ratification of the EAC SPS Protocol; drafting of the EAC SPS Bill and Regulations; and review of the national SPS committees;
- (ii) Training on risk assessment covering plant health, animal health and food safety;
- (iii) Training on organization and implementation of official controls for plant health, animal health and food and feed safety;
- (iv) Training on inspection covering plant health, animal health and food safety and feed in accordance with international standards;
- (v) Training on the development of national residue control plans
- (vi) Training on the development of laboratory business plans

Through this support a number of documents (manuals and proposals) have been developed as outlined below and will be shared electronically.

## **Organization and implementation of official controls training manuals**

Official controls include legal, regulatory and institutional arrangements for the assessment and management of risks and for inspection and other procedures to determine compliance with the measures. The training involved a status desk review of the current situation in the EAC Partner States to identify the gaps and weaknesses in official controls system which were to be addressed by the training. This was followed by separate trainings for plant health, animal health, and food and feed safety. Participants were taken through official controls procedures; explaining what these controls are, the organization that competently applies, supervises or verifies these controls, the World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, international standards and East African Community (EAC) instruments for such controls. Six documents are available as follows:

1. Status of the organization of official controls for SPS in animal health
2. Organization and implementation of food and feed safety official controls
3. Status of the organization and implementation of plant health official controls
4. Animal health official controls training manual
5. Food and feed safety official controls training manual
6. Plant health official controls training manual

## **Risk assessment training manuals**

Risk assessment is the determination of the quantitative or qualitative estimate of the potential impact of hazards to inform decisions (determine the measures required for compliance) in plant health, animal health and food and feed safety. The manuals prepared for the training outline risk assessment processes and procedures for EAC Partner States in line with standard “Risk Assessment” procedures envisaged by World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (“SPS Agreement”) and the guidelines provided by the international standard setting bodies. Separate trainings were conducted for each SPS area and the available manuals include:

1. Risk assessment in animal health
2. Risk assessment in plant health
3. Risk assessment in food and feed safety.

## **Proposal on institutionalizing a risk-based approach in application of SPS measures**

This document presents details of what a risk-based approach entails, and how it addresses the requirements and principles of both international and regional trade agreements. This includes proposed interventions based on a logical framework, implementation arrangements and a budget for the intervention respectively.

## **Inspection training manuals**

Inspection is the examination of a product, process, service or installation or their

design and determination of its conformity with specific requirements or, on the basis of professional judgment, with general requirements. The manuals outline the requirements for inspection operations (processes and procedures) based on the ISO 17020 requirements of the competent bodies performing inspection. This includes considerations of both the human and physical requirements. The manuals indicate procedures that can be applied at any stage of inspection, including the design stage, type of examination, initial inspection and in-service inspection or surveillance, in order to build impartiality and consistency in inspection activities.

1. Manuals of inspection procedures for animal health
2. Manuals for inspection procedures for plant health
3. Manuals for inspection procedures for food and feed safety.

## **Proposal on establishment of a rapid response mechanism for countries to implement in the event of an SPS emergency**

Rapid response is required when an SPS emergency occurs, with the aim of limiting impact and costs. Examples of SPS emergencies include an outbreak of foodborne illness, a notifiable animal disease, or an incursion of a quarantine pest. This proposal sets out a framework for timely and effective coordination of efforts to contain (or where possible eradicate) the incursion and to minimize damage and cost. Mechanisms for coordination and inter-sectoral collaboration are proposed, and the roles and responsibilities of public and private sector stakeholders defined.

## **Manual for training on the development of national residue monitoring and control plans**

Residue monitoring and control plans are an essential tool for preserving the public health of consumers and at the same time contributing to the development of agricultural and agri-food products for export. Therefore, national control plans constitute a tool to measure the performance of the food safety management system implemented by the food business operator while for the competent/regulatory authorities they are a tool to inform when and where necessary to readjust the SPS control measures. The manual explains the reasons why the monitoring and control plans are necessary, the procedures in their development and gives examples.

## **Laboratory training manual in Business Planning**

Laboratories play a critical role in all food safety/animal health/plant health system in providing objective data or measurements to: assess the performance of the system, detect diseases, identify hazards, and assess the compliance of products/systems for certification. Reliable laboratory data are critical for regulatory enforcement and trade. All stakeholders along value chains from “farm to fork” need therefore well-managed, equipped and operating laboratories to provide the needed credible and accurate analytical results. The manual provides a comprehensive look into business plan development for laboratories indicating how to formulate business plans including identification of the steps in the business plan development process and to analyze the types of information required in developing a business plan.

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